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Arms violations fit Soviet strategy

By Bill Gertz
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The CIA has forwarded to Congress a report that states Soviet arms violations are part of Moscow's carefully planned strategic military and intelligence operations.

The report is one of the first in recent years to be made by an independent organization under contract to the CIA.

Several Soviet bloc intelligence defectors were interviewed by authors of the report. Among them are former high-ranking intelligence officials from Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

"Soviet planning for cheating and deception on arms control agreements begins well in advance of any specific agreement," the 258-page report states.

Copies of the unclassified report were supplied to the Senate Foreign Relations, Armed Services and Intelligence committees by David Gries, CIA director of congressional affairs. A copy of the study was ob-

tained by The Washington Times from congressional sources.

Sen. Jesse Helms, North Carolina Republican, hailed the report as "one of the best documented analyses that supports the President's approach to arms control that I have seen."

Critics of the Reagan administration's effort to expose Soviet arms control violations, which led to a presidential decision last May to abandon the SALT II strategic arms treaty limits, have argued that most Soviet arms violations cannot be proved conclusively and therefore should not be allowed to interrupt the arms control process.

Mr. Helms, in a letter to CIA director-designate Robert Gates last week, complimented the agency on the study, which he described as "an excellent example of the type of illuminating studies that can be produced through the use of competitive analysis."

Mr. Helms introduced an amendment last year that became part of the Intelligence Authorization Act,

which requests that the CIA conduct studies on a wide array of intelligence topics, "under appropriate competitive analysis procedures." Military implications of Soviet treaty violations were to be included.

CIA critics have suggested that the agency tailors its analyses to bureaucratic perceptions of world problems. They point out that a 1976 competitive analysis, the so-called A Team-B Team experiment, found the CIA had underestimated Soviet military capabilities.

CIA spokeswoman Kathy Pherson said the study was only one example of the agency's continuing effort to provide its analysts with "another view on an important subject."

The report states that the Soviet Union calculates its cheating on arms treaties to avoid causing adverse U.S. diplomatic reaction. Treaty violations are designed to prevent the United States from disrupting trade and financial ties between the Soviets and Western nations.

"Considering the current U.S. practice, which, de facto, is to provide the Soviets with all the benefits that accompany the spirit of arms control without any penalties for cheating, the Soviets have little to risk by continuing just to negotiate for the indefinite future," the report states.